

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

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CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Astragalus troglodytes* S. Wats.

COMMON NAME: Creeping milk-vetch

SYNONYMS: *Cnemidophacos troglodytes* (S. Watson) Rydb.

FAMILY: Fabaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: S. Watson, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts. 20: 362. 1885.

TYPE LOCALITY: Near Cliff-Dwellers Ravine, San Francisco Mountains, Arizona, United States of America.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: GH-58997. J.G. Lemmon 3225, Aug 1884.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: A distinct species in a large genus of western North America. According to USDA, NRCS (2004), *Astragalus troglodytes* is 1 of 350 species of *Astragalus* in North America.

DESCRIPTION: Acaulescent herbaceous perennial, with herbage green or gray-green beneath the silky-pilose vesture, pubescence basifixed; stipules free. Leaves 3.0-11.5 cm (1.2-4.5 in) long, with 11-19 leaflets that are obovate to broadly oblanceolate, glabrous on the upper side, flat or loosely folded, 4-13 mm long and 3-4 mm wide. The penduncles are scapiform, 4.5-13 cm (1.8-5 in) long, prostrate, longer than the leaves. Flowers form a headlike cluster on 10-30 flowered dense racemes. The calyx is campanulate, 6-8 mm long; the teeth are about half as long as the calyx. The petals are a dull reddish purple; the banner is recurved about 45°, is 9.5-11.4 mm wide, terminated by a cuspidate beak to 1.5 mm long, turgid, hirsute, 1-celled. The pods are 5-6 mm long, suborbicular, asymmetric but straight or nearly so; calyx and pods are villous-hirsute. (McDougall 1970; Fletcher 1979).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: This species differs from other members of the genus within its range in that it is acaulescent (without a leafy stem above ground), the hairs are attached at one end rather than toward the middle, the stipules are free, the flowers are about 12 mm long and reddish purple, and the pods are 1-celled, subglobose and clumped together in a head-like cluster. (Fletcher 1979).

ILLUSTRATIONS:

TOTAL RANGE: Endemic to Coconino and Yavapai counties in Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: See "Total Range."

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial

PHENOLOGY: Flowers from April to August

BIOLOGY: Unknown

HABITAT: According to Fletcher, "Barneby, in his Atlas of North American Astragalus, gives the habitat as dry slopes and flats in yellow pine forest in poor stony soil derived from volcanic materials, and rotted pine needles. While this species appears to prefer the ponderosa pine vegetative type, it has also been collected in a pinyon-juniper chaparral mixture. Initial indications are that this species may take advantage of at least a moderate amount of disturbance."

ELEVATION: 4,260 - 8,100 ft (1300-2470 m).

EXPOSURE: Collected in 1967 on southeast-facing slope, 0-5% grade, in open timber.

SUBSTRATE: Poor stony soils derived from volcanic materials.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Ponderosa pine forests, pinyon/juniper chaparral mixture, and grasslands. Associated species include: *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama), *Eriogonum wrightii* (Wright's wild buck-wheat), *Juniperus deppeana* (Alligator juniper), *Purshia stansburiana* (Stansbury cliff-rose), and *Quercus turbinella* (shrub live oak).

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None (USDI, FWS 1990)
[C3 (USDI, FWS 1985)]
[C3 (USDI, FWS 1983)]
[C2 (USDI, FWS 1980)]
[PTN (USDI, FWS 1975)]

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Additional field investigations need to be performed to determine the current range and population numbers.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: DOD – Navajo Army Depot; USFS – Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests; State Land Department; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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